
CHICAGO WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S BEST OVERALL PROGRAM AWARD

WASHINGTON, DC – Chicago Sister Cities International has won Sister Cities International's 2014 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population more than 500,001. The 2014 Sister Cities International Best Overall Program Award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in 2013 in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement.

Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI) reinvigorated its organizational vision in 2013 by aligning the mission of the organization with that of Chicago's overall international goals. The largest step CSCI took to achieve this goal was to merge with World Business Chicago (WBC) in April 2013. CSCI and WBC now continue to boost Chicago's global position by networking and building relationships across the globe.

CSCI also showcased a diverse set of programs in 2013. The organization presented over 80 events, exchanges and programs, and hosted over 40 international delegations from 12 countries. CSCI also engaged its immense international volunteer base of over 600 members through 112 committee meetings to plan and execute programs. CSCI's balance between business and culture has indeed led to growth in economic development and increased Chicago's reputation as a world class city for arts and culture.

Sister Cities International's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Energy/Sustainable Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth & Education), Volunteer of the Year, and Youth Leadership. Award winners will be honored at a special ceremony on Saturday, August 2, during Sister Cities International's 58th Annual Conference in San Jose, California.

The Sister Cities International 58th Annual Conference will bring together elected and municipal officials, engaged citizens, diplomats, and business leaders in the exciting capital of Silicon Valley to discuss, "The Power of Digital Diplomacy". Conference sessions will provide attendees with opportunities to learn about strengthening their sister city programs through informative sessions led by experts and industry leaders. For more information on the 2014 Sister Cities International Annual Conference, please visit: www.SisterCitiesConference.org.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in 2,000 communities in 140 countries. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.

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